

orig to 1/17/58

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OGC/LC:JSW:mks
16 January 1958

SUPPORT BULLETIN

Legislation

The Congress reconvened on 7 January; however, some Congressional committees were hard at work prior to that time. Sputniks, missiles and the general status of scientific developments will naturally be given priority consideration. However, another subject will also be given immediate treatment - Federal pay raises. Some bills were introduced on the first day of this session and, as indicated in previous bulletins, other bills were introduced in the first session. These proposals call for a salary increase of from approximately 6 to 12 per cent. Some bills would make any increase retroactive to 1 January 1958, others would be retroactive to September 1957, still others include provisions to gear Federal pay scales to the cost of living index. In his Budget Message to the Congress, the President ^{SAID} indicated that certain revisions are needed in the pay structures for classified employees. The White House has indicated that the President's proposal includes as a primary objective more adequate compensation for those whose present salaries are shown to be substantially less than salaries

for non-Federal employment when compared with positions of similar responsibility. It proposes a 6.0 increase in Grades GS-1 through 10; 7.5 per cent for those in GS-11 through 14; and 12.5 per cent in GS-15 through 18. Although it cannot be predicted which bill will succeed or exactly what the increase will be, it is generally agreed that a pay increase will become law during this session.

After weighing all of the factors, the Organization has decided not to submit any career benefit legislation, particularly in the field of retirement, to this session of the Congress.